AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (original). A method of stimulating neuronal growth or repair comprising exposing a target neuron or neuronal area to a solution of the metallothionein isoform MT-IIA.

2 (original). A method according to claim 1 wherein said contact is by direct interaction of the target neuron or neuronal site with said solution.

3 (currently amended). A method according to claim 1 or 2-wherein said MT-IIA is naturally occurring human MT-IIA.

4 (currently amended). A method according to claim 1 or 2-wherein said MT-IIA is produced by chemical synthesis or by production in genetically manipulated cells or organisms.

5 (original). A method according to claim 4 wherein said MT-IIA is recombinant human MT-IIA.

6 (currently amended). A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5 claim 1 wherein said solution has a concentration of up to about 5μ g/ml metallothionein in a neurologically acceptable carrier.

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7 (original). A method according to claim 6 wherein said solution has a concentration of about 5 μ g/ml metallothionein in solution.

8 (currently amended). A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5 claim 1 further including exposing said neuron or neuronal area to any one or a combination of metallothionein isoforms selected from MT-I, MT-III and MT-IV.

9 (original). A method according to claim 8 wherein said target neuron or neuronal area is exposed simultaneously to a combination of MT-IIA and any one or a combination of metallothionein isoforms selected from MT-I, MT-II, MT-III and MT-IV.

10 (original). A method according to claim 8 wherein said target neuron or neuronal area is exposed sequentially to a combination of MT-IIA followed by any one or a combination of metallothionein isoforms from MT-I, MT-II, MT-III and MT-II.

11 (original). A method according to claim 8 wherein said target neuron or neuronal area is exposed sequentially to a combination of any one of metallothionein isoforms selected from MT-I, MT-II, MT-IIA, MT-III and MT-IV.

12 (currently amended). A method according to any one of claims 1 to 11 claim 11 wherein said neuron or neuronal area is located in the brain. 13 (currently amended). A method according to any one of claims 1 to 12 claim 1 wherein said solution is administered to said neuron or neuronal area by any one or a combination of direct injection, intraperitoneal injection, oral administration or via genetically modified cells including stem cells.

14 (currently amended). A method of treatment of Alzheimer's Disease comprising administration to a patient in need of treatment a therapeutic composition including metallothionein in accordance with the method of any one of claims 1 to 13claim 1.

15 (currently amended). A method of treatment of Parkinson's Disease comprising administration to a patient in need of treatment a therapeutic composition including metallothionein in accordance with the method of any one of clams 1 to 13claim 1.

16 (currently amended). A method of treatment of motor neuron disease comprising administration to a patient in need of treatment a therapeutic composition including metallothionein in accordance with the method of any one of claims 1 to 13claim 1.

17 (currently amended). A method of treatment of head injury comprising administration to a patient in need of treatment a therapeutic composition including metallothionein in accordance with the method of any one of claims 1 to 13claim 1.

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18 (original). A therapeutic composition adapted for topical administration to an area of neuronal compromise said composition characterised by metallothionein isoform MT-IIA as an active ingredient.

19 (original). A composition according to claim 18 wherein said active ingredient is combined with any one or a combination of metallothionein isoforms selected from MT-1, MT-II, MT-III and MT-IV.

20 (currently amended). A composition according to claim 18 or 19 wherein said metallothionein is naturally occurring human MT-IIA.

21 (currently amended). A composition according to any one of claims 18 or 19 claim 18 wherein said metallothionein is produced by chemical synthesis or by production in genetically manipulated cells or organisms.

22 (original). A composition according to claim 21 wherein said metalliothionein is recombinant human MT-IIA.

23 (currently amended). A composition according to any one of claims 18 to 22 claim 18 further including a neurologically acceptable carrier particularly adapted for a topical administration to an area of neuronal compromise.

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24 (original). A composition according to claim 23 adapted for direct topical application.

25 (original). A composition according to claim 23 adapted for intraperitoneal or intravenous administration to effect exposure of neurons by a non-topical route.

26 (currently amended). A method according to any one of claims 1 to 17

<u>claim 1</u> substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the examples.

27 (currently amended). A composition according to any one of claims 18 to 25 claim 18 substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the examples.